

IETF EMAIL LIST ARCHIVING REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

General information:

Sources Sought Notice

Posted: 12 March 2012

Response Date: 16 April 2012

Deadline for Questions: 19 March 2012

Answers to Questions Posted: 26 March 2012

Contracting Office: Internet Society, on behalf of the IETF Administrative Oversight Committee

Address:

Internet Society

Mail Archive

Attention: IAD

1775 Wiehle Ave.

Suite 201

Reston, VA 20190-5108

Description:

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only, it is not a Request for Proposals (RFP). Solicitations are not available at this time. An RFP is anticipated in May 2012 for a contract to commence June 2012. This notice does not constitute a commitment by the Internet Society (ISOC) or the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) to issue an RFP.

We seek information on how to improve the IETF email list archiving and searching systems. Our requirements could be met with existing, custom-developed, or hybrid tools. Solutions may vary from a customization of an existing application to the development of the tools from the ground up. Cost estimates for proposed solutions are desired.

The Statement of Work describes the requirements for improved email list archiving and searching systems. The IETF makes heavy use of email lists to conduct its work. Participants frequently need to search the archives of these lists, and have asked for improved search capabilities, particularly when the search needs to cover a large period of time, or cross several lists. For instance, document editors, shepherds, working group chairs, and area directors may need to review all discussion of a particular draft. That discussion may be spread across the working group list, one or more directorate lists, and the IETF general list. Occasionally, work impacts multiple groups, possibly in different areas, and the search must cover

additional working group lists. The current tools for performing these searches require several manually coordinated steps, which are error prone. Without a local copy of the archive (which may not be complete), searching most working group lists requires brute force effort, aided possibly by web search engines. More advanced search capabilities have been constructed for a limited subset of the available lists and are exposed in the "Email Archives Quick Search" section of the main IETF website. While these tools are of great assistance, there is still significant need for improvement. The current archive mechanism could also be made more efficient. The current practices involve duplicate stores (for the web and ftp interfaces), which impacts storage and replication, and is subject to inconsistency.

Statement of Work: The statement of work is located here:
<<http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-sparks-genarea-mailarch-05>>

License: It is requested that licensing terms be described for any proposed solution.

Administrative Matters:

(1) Responders shall not be obligated to develop the tool described herein and it is understood by the IAOC and Internet Society that the cost estimates provided, if any, as a result of this request, are "best" estimates only.

(2) All information submitted in response to this announcement must be in English, is voluntary, and may be used in the development of an RFP.

(3) Information received will be made public in accordance with the following guidelines:

a. Comments and suggestions on the Statement of Work received from any party. All material provided in this section will be made public without attribution.

b. Expressions of interest will be kept confidential within the ISOC, IAOC, and the IETF leadership. Vendors expressing interest will not be identified publicly, nor will any cost estimates received from such vendors.

(4) The failure to respond to this RFI will not bar an organization from responding to an RFP. The Internet Society and the IAOC will not pay for information requested, nor will they compensate any respondent for any cost incurred in developing information provided.

(5) Questions shall be directed to mailarch@ietf-bids.org no later than 19 March 2012. Responses to these questions shall be posted by 26 March 2012. The identity of the questioner will not be posted.

(6) Respondents desiring notice of the RFP announcement should request notification on the appropriate submission form.

(7) The response date is 16 April 2012. Responses to this RFI should be submitted to mailarch@ietf-bids.org.

(8) Point of Contact
Ray Pelletier, IETF Administrative Director
mailarch@ietf-bids.org